

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3797

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, ENRG, TH, OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)

UUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. I MET BRIEFLY WITH PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK THIS MORNING  
AND REVIEWED WITH HIM THE SUBJECTS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE  
DISCUSSED DURING HIS MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.

2. I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT I WAS SURE THAT THE  
VICE PRESIDENT WOULD REAFFIRM OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN  
THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY  
RELATIONS WITH THAILAND, AND I BELIEVED HE WOULD BE INTERESTED  
TO GET THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA AS WELL AS ANY IMPRESSIONS OF CHINESE POLICY  
HE HAD GAINED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO PEKING. I NOTED THAT  
THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY COMMENT ON OUR CONTINUING  
SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THAILAND AND WOULD ALSO DOUBTLESS  
WISH TO REAFFIRM OUR INTEREST IN THE REFUGEE SITUATION  
AS WELL AS OUR CONTINUING DESIRE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
RTG IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD INCLUDING CROP SUBSTITUTION.  
I SAID I BELIEVED THE VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT ALSO MENTION  
OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE WHAT COULD BE DONE IN THE  
WAY OF RESEARCH ON ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE FOREGOING TOPICS  
WERE VERY SATISFACTORY TO HIM. WHEN HE ASKED ME  
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WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE  
COVERED, I COUNTERED BY ASKING WHETHER HE FELT ANY  
HAD BEEN LEFT OUT. HE LAUGHED AND SAID NO; THESE  
WERE THE IMPORTANT TOPICS WHICH SHOULD BE REVIEWED.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN MENTIONED TO ME HIS CON-  
CERN OVER WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS DELAYS IN REACHING

AGREEMENT WITH THE UNION OIL COMPANY ON THE PRICE OF GAS IN THE GULF OF SIAM. HE SAID HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE GAS FIELD DEVELOPED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WAS THINKING OF SETTING A TIME LIMIT WITHIN WHICH AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED. HE ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ON THE SITUATION. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT THE DECISIONS HE HAD TAKEN TO DATE WERE GOOD ONES. THE AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE GAS PROJECT AND I THOUGHT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S CHOICE OF THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK AS FINANCIAL ADVISORS AND THE FLUOR COMPANY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS AS TECHNICAL ADVISORS HAD BEEN GOOD ONES. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT DEALING WITH AMERICAN CORPORATIONS WITH WELL-ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL REPUTATIONS WAS WISE. I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE PROJECT WITH THE MANAGER OF THE FLUOR COMPANY YESTERDAY AND THAT HE HAD INFORMED ME THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THE PRICE NOW BEING OFFERED BY UNION OIL SEEMED QUITE REASONABLE. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THE UNION OIL NEGOTIATOR WOULD BE BACK IN A FORTNIGHT AND IT SEEMED REASONABLE TO HOPE THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED SOON. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN REPEATED THAT HE WAS GETTING VERY IMPATIENT WITH THE PACE AT WHICH PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE.

5. I GOT THE IMPRESSION THE PRIME MINISTER WAS BEING VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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THOROUGH IN PREPARING HIMSELF FOR HIS TALKS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. I HAVE REPORTED HIS REMARKS ON THE GAS PROJECT IN SOME DETAIL AS, ALTHOUGH THIS MATTER WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RAISED IN THE COURSE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S FORMAL MEETING WITH HIM, THE PROJECT IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO THAILAND AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN COMPANIES IS SO COMPREHENSIVE THAT HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY MENTION IT IN THE COURSE OF OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT  
**TAGS:** PEPR, ENRG, OVIP, TH, (MONDALE, WALTER F)  
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**Type:** TE  
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